

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: IMMEDIATE Contact: Reid Hartzoge
Date: April 23, 2002 Phone: (919) 733-5612

EASLEY APPOINTS LOCKLEAR TO ROBESON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT Veteran District Court Judge Fills Vacancy Created by Passing of Dexter Brooks

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today named Gary Locklear, Chief District Court Judge for Robeson County, to fill the Superior Court vacancy created by the death last month of Judge Dexter Brooks.

Judge Locklear has served on the bench for thirteen years. Before his service as a judge, Locklear spent five years in private practice handling civil and criminal matters, and three years as an assistant District Attorney. In addition to his broad array of experiences in the legal profession, Locklear devoted five years to teaching as a community college instructor.

"Gary Locklear is an experienced, hard working judge who can immediately help break through case backlogs while ensuring fair trials and reasoned decisions," Gov. Easley said. "Having been a judge, prosecutor, and defense attorney, he knows criminal matters from all sides. In addition, he has done civil law work and is a nearly lifelong resident of Robeson County. I am also impressed by Gary Locklear's years of service as a educator teaching students in our community college system."

Locklear received his undergraduate degree from Pembroke State University in 1970 and his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979.

###